

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend paragraph 0035 of the published application as follows:

As further depicted in FIGS. 1 and 2, insertion shaft 10 is provided along an external surface (not separately designated) with a pair of C-profile channels 28 and 30 approximately opposing one another. Channels 28 and 30 communicate with the ambient environment not only via respective distal end openings 32 and 34 and proximal end openings (not shown) but also via respective longitudinal slots 36 and 38. Slots 36 and 38 are defined by opposing longitudinal edges 36a, 36b and 38a, 38b formed along the outer surface of endoscope insertion shaft 10. Channels 28 and 30 each have a transverse dimension or diameter, while the respective slots 36 and 38 each have transverse dimension or width (distance between opposing longitudinal edges 36a and 36b for slot 36 or between edges 38a, 38b for slot 38) substantially smaller than the transverse dimension or diameter of the respective channel. Opposing longitudinal edges 36a, 36b and 38a, 38b are along turned-in portions of the outer surface of endoscope insertion shaft 10, that is, opposing longitudinal edges 36a, 36b (or 38a, 38b) extend towards one another to define the C-shaped profile of the channels 28, 30.